

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2272

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 6251

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, IR

SUBJ: AN ANNAPOLIS FOR IRAN

REF: STATE 142934

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED WITH STANWICK REPRESENTATIVES THEIR FEASIBILITY STUDY LEADING TO ESTABLISHMENT OF IRANIAN NAVAL ACADEMY IN THE U.S. PROJECT HAS BEEN REVIEWED BY ARMISH/MAAG WHICH WAS NOT INITIALLY CONSULTED BY STANWICK.

2. AS EXPLAINED TO US, IIN INTEREST IN ACADEMY IS PRIMARILY MOTIVATED BY TWO FACTORS; (1) IMPOSSIBILITY OF CONSTRUCTING PREMISES FOR ACADEMY IN IRAN WITHIN NEXT FOUR YEARS OWING TO HEAVY BACKLOG OF CIVILIAN AND MILITARY CONSTRUCTIN PROJECTS, AND (2) IIN DESIRE TO EXERCISE STRONGER DISCIPLINE OVER IRANIAN NAVAL STUDENTS NOW ENROLLED IN U.S. COLLEGES AND MARITIME INSTITUTES. WE ARE UNCLEAR AS TO NATURE OF DISCIPLINE PROBLEM, BUT SUSPECT THAT GOI SECURITY AGENCIES BELIEVE THEY CAN EXERCISE CLOSER SURVEILLANCE OVER STUDENTS AT CENTRALIZED INSTITUTION.

3. WE WERE TOLD THAT IF APPROVED, PROJECT SHOULD COMMENCE IN SEPTEMBER 1976 AND CONTINUE FOR AT LEAST 4 (NOT 7-8) YEARS IN THE U.S. FOR FIFTH AND SUBSEQUENT YEARS OF  
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PROGRAM, ENTIRE ACADEMY, INCLUDING TEACHERS AND INSTRUCTIONAL

MATERIAL, WOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO A NEWLY CONSTRUCTED SITE IN IRAN. PROJECTED DATES COULD, OF COURSE, SLIP. STANWICK REPRESENTATIVES SAY THEY HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT BAINBRIDGE NAVAL BASE FACILITIES WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE BY STATE OF MARYLAND WHICH INTENDS TO ACQUIRE PROPERTY AND THAT UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND WOULD AGREE TO ADMINISTER INSTRUCTIONAL ASPECTS OF PROGRAM. STANWICK BELIEVES THAT AFTER FOUR YEARS ACADEMY WOULD BE FULLY ACCREDITED AND SOME IIN STUDENTS WOULD BE ABLE TO PURSUE U.S. GRADUATE STUDIES. COMPANY HAS MADE ONLY TENTATIVE APPROACHES TO ONE SENATOR WITHOUT RECEIVING ANY RESPONSE. COMPANY'S SOUNDINGS IN SENIOR USN AND DOD CIRCLES HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN POSITIVE, BUT PROJECT IS TO BE HANDLED OUTSIDE FMS CHANNELS. REPRESENTATIVES SAY THEY HAVE BEEN TOLD BY IIN LEADERSHIP THAT FIRM DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN ON THIS PROJECT AND THAT IF ACADEMY IS NOT POSSIBLE IN U.S., IT WILL BE LOCATED IN U.K. BRITISH, WE ARE TOLD, ARE EAGER TO UNDERTAKE PROJECT.

4. COMMENT: IT IS DIFFICULT TO EVALUATE A PROJECT OF THIS KIND WHICH CONTAINS SO MANY CONTINGENCIES AND NEW DEPARTURES. IF PROJECT IS ADOPTED AND LATER BREAKS DOWN AFTER IIN STUDENTS HAVE BEEN SHIFTED FROM U.S. COLLEGES AND INSTITUTES, IIN TRAINING PROGRAM WOULD SUFFER HEAVY BLOW. WE HAVE FOUR BASIC QUESTIONS WHICH SHOULD BE ANSWERED BEFORE PROJECT RECEIVES OFFICIAL BLESSING:

A. WILL IIN BE ABLE TO PRODUCE SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF QUALIFIED TRAINEES WHO CAN COMPLETE COURSE OF STUDY WITHOUT REQUIRING THAT STANDARDS BE LOWERED? THIS WILL BE DIFFICULT, BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE, BECAUSE STUDENTS WILL BE DIVERTED FROM PRESENT U.S. COLLEGE TRAINING.

B. IS IIN FULLY AWARE OF PITFALLS IN NEW, VISIONARY PROJECT OF THIS KIND? FOR EXAMPLE, DOES IIN REALIZE THAT ACADEMY MIGHT BECOME TARGET FOR ANTI-IRANIAN CRITICISM?

C. IS ACCREDITATION OF ACADEMY WITHIN FOUR YEARS A REASONABLE PROSPECT?  
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D. WILL THERE BE SERIOUS OBJECTIONS FROM CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND OFFICIALS OF STATE WHERE ACADEMY WILL BE LOCATED OR FROM OTHER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO OPPOSE OUR MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH IRAN?

5. ARMISH/MAAG WILL EXPLORE FIRST TWO QUESTIONS WITH IIN OFFICERS AND ALSO ATTEMPT TO GAUGE DEGREE OF IRANIAN

COMMITMENT TO PROGRAM OF THIS TYPE. THAT IS, IF NOT  
U.S., WILL U.K. IN FACT, RECEIVE PROJECT? ARMISH/MAAG  
WILL REPORT SEPARATELY. QUESTIONS C. AND D. CAN BEST  
BE ANSWERED BY STATE AND DOD.

6. IF THESE QUESTIONS CAN BE ANSWERED IN A SATISFACTORY  
MANNER, WE BELIEVE DEPARTMENT SHOULD INTERPOSE NOT  
OBJECTION TO PROJECT. OBVIOUS ADVANTAGE IS THAT IT WILL  
GIVE DEFINITE AMERICAN ORIENTATION TO TRAINING OF LARGE  
PERCENTAGE OF IRAN'S FUTURE NAVAL LEADERSHIP.  
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